VZCZCXRO3264 OO RUEHLA DE RUEHC #7109 1321917 ZNR UUUUU ZZH O 121612Z MAY 06 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE 1833 INFO RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY 8976 RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0885 RUEHKI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 3875 RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 6898 RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1720 RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 4237 RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY 3815 RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA PRIORITY 1638

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KINSHASA FOR BRAZZAVILLE, LONDON, PARIS, BRUSSELS, ROME FOR AFRCIA WATCHERS

CORRECTED COPY (ADDING CAPTION) E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: OPDC PREL OTRA SP AU SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN-U.S. AFRICA CONSULTATIONS

REF: MADRID 1075 (NOTAL)

11. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY RICE TO FOREIGN MINISTER MORATINOS. THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO RELEASE THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE BUT HAS NO OBJECTION IF THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN WISHES TO DO SO. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL.

¶2. BEGIN TEXT:

Dear Miguel:

Thank you for your letter informing me about Spain's initiatives to promote security and development in Africa.

The continent faces some great challenges, and your leadership and involvement in addressing those challenges is extremely important.

I am impressed that you have already discussed these matters with the Chairperson of the African Union. The African Union and AU Commission Chairperson Alpha Omar Konare are valued partners in our work toward a freer, safer, and more prosperous Africa. We are currently working with Congress to designate a U.S. Ambassador to the African Union, and we expect the African Union will open a representative office in Washington, D.C. this summer.

I would like to collaborate further wiyh you on these matters of mutual interest, and I will have my Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Dr. Jendayi Frazer

contact her counterpart in your government to arrange for a joint meeting.

Sincerely,

Condoleezza Rice

END TEXT. RICE